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S E C R E T ALGIERS 002309

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/19/2015

TAGS: MARR MOPS PREL AG

SUBJECT: FOLLOW UP ON ASSURANCES FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL
PARTICIPATING IN EXERCISES

REF: A. STATE 193543

¶B. ALGIERS 1877

¶C. ALGIERS 2225

CLASSIFIED BY: AMBASSADOR RICHARD W. ERDMAN,
FOR REASONS 1.4 (B) AND (D)

(S) FOLLOWING A NOVEMBER 16 MEETING WITH MFA SECRETARY
GENERAL LAMAMRA ON OTHER ISSUES, AMBASSADOR REMINDED LAMAMRA
THAT THE EMBASSY HAD NOT RECEIVED A REACTION TO THE TEXTS
PROPOSED BY THE U.S. FOR DIPLOMATIC NOTES (REF C) TO BE
EXCHANGED IN ADVANCE OF MILITARY EXERCISES IN ALGERIA.
AMBASSADOR REMINDED LAMAMRA THAT SUCH ASSURANCES WERE NEEDED
IN ADVANCE OF PLANNED UPCOMING EXERCISES, ESPECIALLY THOSE
INVOLVING U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT. AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED THAT
THE ASSURANCES WERE NEEDED FOR LIABILITY REASONS IN THE EVENT
THAT THERE WAS AN ACCIDENT -- SUCH AS A PLANE CRASH -- DURING
AN EXERCISE. THE INTENT, STRESSED AMBASSADOR, WAS NOT TO
DIMINISH ALGERIAN SOVEREIGNTY DURING SUCH EXERCISES. LAMAMRA
SAID BUREAUCRATIC PROCESSES IN THE INTERAGENCY HAD DELAYED
THE GOA REPLY, BUT HE ASSURED AMBASSADOR THAT ALGERIA
UNDERSTOOD THE IMPORTANCE THE U.S. ATTACHED TO SUCH
ASSURANCES AND THAT A RESPONSE WAS IN COURSE.

ERDMAN